

**In the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-35 (previously withdrawn)

36. (Currently Amended) A synthetic organic polymer composition comprising:  
a backbone chain, and at least one contact-killing, non leaching, charged antimicrobial side chain covalently bound to said backbone chain, wherein said backbone chain does not release biocidal amounts of the charged antimicrobial side chain into the surrounding environment, and wherein the antimicrobial side chain is selected from the group consisting of ~~benzalkonium halide compound, quaternary ammonium salts,~~ pyridinium salts, ~~phosphonium salts,~~ and combinations thereof.

37. (Previously Amended) The composition of claim 36 wherein said backbone chain is selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyethylene, polyvinylidene chloride, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene terephthalate (glycol modified), and polycarbonate.

38. (Previously Amended) The composition of claim 36 wherein said backbone chain is a straight chain.

39. (Previously cancelled)

40. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 36 wherein said antimicrobial side chain is positively charged.

41. (Previously cancelled)

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42. (Previously cancelled)